

LONE BANDIT HOLDS UP LOMITA BANK; FLEES AMID HAILSTORM OF BULLETS

Political Pot Boils Over Here as Tickets Enter Race

Gun Battle Rages Over Main Corner After Noon Holdup

Shots of Bank Staff and Business Men Fly Fast as Robber Flees With \$340 From Window of Cashier

FUGITIVE FIRES AT JUDGE HUNTER FROM CAR

Girl Bookkeeper's Presence of Mind Saves \$4,000 from Clutches of Thief; Police Have Clues in Identity Mystery

A lone bandit held up the Lomita Branch of the California Bank Tuesday noon, made away with about \$340 and escaped in a blue sedan amid a literal barrage of bullets fired by bank officials and citizens. The holdup and its street-battle sequel constitute one of the most thrilling chapters in the history of Harbor district crime.

Shortly after noon while Cashier A. F. Franklin of the bank was at lunch in a blue sedan, driven by a stranger, parked on Weston street, opposite the bank. The car faced west. The driver of the car remained in his seat for about half an hour, apparently waiting. About 12:30 Mr. Franklin returned from lunch. The bandit followed him into the bank.

No sooner had the cashier taken his place behind the wicket than the holdup man walked up to the window and slid a note to the cashier.

Looks Into Muzzle The note read: "Give me \$5,000 or all you've got or I'll blow you all to H—." Franklin read the note and looked up into the muzzle of a .38 caliber pistol. Covered by the bandit he could not make an alarm and no other employees of the bank realized what was going on at the cashier's window.

Franklin reached for a pile of cash and handed it to the bandit. It aggregated about \$340, the amount being low because the cashier had cashed a large number of checks in the morning and had not replenished his supply from the vault.

Pocketing the money the bandit walked out of the front door. Before he reached the exit Franklin reached for his pistol and fired. The bullet imbedded itself in the frame of the door.

The ring of the pistol shot roused the whole bank staff to the significance of what was taking place and precipitated a general fire on Lomita's busiest corner. Franklin continued shooting at the bandit through the window of the bank. One shot is thought to have struck him, for he staggered and his hat—a brown felt—fell from his head.

Hunter Opens Fire L. J. Hunter, stepped from his seat with a pistol in his hand and rushed to the side entrance of the bank. The door stuck. He fired through the window. By this time the bandit had reached his car and was stepping on the starter. He turned when Judge Hunter fired and fired back, the bullet striking the sedan's window. One bullet imbedded itself in a sign near Brethren street.

Meantime business men rushed out of stores in the neighborhood brandishing firearms. E. W. Isenhower leaped from his filling station, armed with a 30-30 hunting rifle. He fired two shots in the air and then dropped to his knees and continued the fusillade. One bullet struck the back of the sedan.

Hugo Schmidt, Lomita butcher, joined the barrage with a .22 revolver, emptying his gun. Jimmie Handal, butcher at the Central Market, ran to the side of the sedan, unarmed. The bandit aimed a pistol at him and cursed. Handal retreated.

The motor of the sedan started. The bandit stepped on the gas and headed at top speed west. On Fremont street the firemen saw the firemen at the fire station ran into the street. One of them was armed

All Voters Must Register By March 10 to Vote on April 9

All voters who wish to cast ballots at the municipal election here on April 9 must re-register before March 10. Two deputy registrars are taking registrations in Torrance now. Citizens who have been out when the registrars called may register at the home of Mrs. Laura G. Anderson, 1510 Engracia avenue or that of Mrs. H. E. Paige, 1031 North Arlington avenue.

Laborers and High Executives Weep at Bier of W. E. B. Partridge

Scores of Torrance men and leaders in the metal industry of California attended the funeral of W. E. B. Partridge of Redondo Beach at Inglewood Monday. Floral tributes to the memory of Mr. Partridge were sent at the death of their former chief with men whose names stand high in Southern California business. Mr. Partridge was noted as much for the warmth of his heart, and his human kindness as he was for his ability as an executive and his knowledge of the foundry industry in which he spent his life and which he pioneered on the Pacific Coast.

Missionary To Speak Here

Mrs. E. H. Brunemeier, returned missionary from Tunjeng, China, and now of Placencia, Calif., will speak on China at a joint meeting of all Torrance Missionary societies, on the National Day of Prayer, Friday, Feb. 24. The meeting will be held in the Central Evangelical Guild hall. The program will be announced in next week's issue of the Herald.

Order Is Issued for G.P. Refinery Work Starts Soon

From an authentic source it was learned here this week that an order has been issued for the breaking of ground in Torrance for the General Petroleum Corporation's 3,000 men refinery. It is not known definitely when work will be started, as the company is changing its original plans materially. It is understood that the main part of the plant will be erected at the extreme western end of the tract near the Santa Fe tracks.

CARD PARTY

Don't forget the Catholic Altar Society card party to be held tonight at K. of C. hall on Redondo boulevard.

Long Beach Club Puts on Program for Rotary Here

Twenty Long Beach Rotarians visited the Torrance club this noon and put on the program at the weekly luncheon here. Dave Larson, a stranger, loitering in the neighborhood of the bank every noon aroused their suspicions. Officers were notified and reported at the bank every noon for about two weeks. Then the stranger disappeared and such constant vigilance was deemed unnecessary.

Saves Bank \$4,000

Miss Armina Sandstone, assistant bookkeeper of the bank is given credit for preventing the loss of several thousand dollars in cash. When the bandit handed the note to Mr. Franklin Miss Sandstone heard the cashier say, "I haven't much cash here now." She walked toward the cashier and was about to tell him that she had \$4,000 in the drawer of her desk when she saw the bandit's gun. She stopped, returned to her desk and closed the drawer.

MEETS TUESDAY

The Missionary Circle of the Central Evangelical church will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month instead of the 3rd Thursday as heretofore.

Observations

Hoover Throws His Hat Into the Ring—The Pre-Convention Issue—Hoover or a Jellyfish?—Hoover or a "Good Fellow?"—A Servant or a Serf?

By W. HAROLD KINGSLEY

HERBERT HOOVER is an avowed candidate for the presidency. In three short words—almost monosyllables—he has consented to the use of his name as a candidate in the Ohio primaries. Asked in a petition for permission to place his name on the ballot he wrote "I do so."

It is apparent that it is now popular in politics to use short sentences and terse words. President Coolidge started the country with his brief "I do not choose" announcement. Now probably the greatest statesman in the United States has added the weight of his example to the short but to the point method of making political announcements.

It is well, Mr. Hoover's "I do so" is plain, simple English. He wastes no words in perisfrage about entering the race because of the widespread demand of friends. He merely says: "I do so."

AFTER all why should a great man deal in appeasement. Isn't it true that the public knows hot air when it emerges from the lips of a candidate for office. And doesn't it cheapen the office of the presidency when men of otherwise good judgment seek to snare it by the wiles of soft but meaningless words?

WE don't seem to be able to write much about anyone but Herbert Hoover. At the same time the country has been so fed up on having to accept nincompoops for candidates that one may be pardoned for enthusiasm at the prospect of having such a man as the secretary of commerce to vote for. You may be sure that the professional politicians would much prefer a "yes man" for president—one who would place party ahead of country, patronage ahead of efficiency, the wishes of "the boys" ahead of the honestly visioned requirements of the United States.

HOOVER is not particularly popular with the battle-scarred wheelhorses of the G. O. P. They would love to elect another Harding. But it seems that they may be disappointed. The echoes of the Harding administration scandals still reverberate through our courts. The stench of petroleum still hangs over Washington. The echoes live and the stench persists because "the boys" nominated Mr. Harding in a hotel room in Chicago—because he had to swear away his independence in order to secure the nomination, because selfish men were willing to dangle the presidency before the nose of a "good fellow" in order to hitch him to their wagon and make him do their bidding.

WE want no more Hardings. We want no compromise candidates who must accept the presidency with so many strings to it that he cannot call his very soul his own. In putting such a conviction on paper, we know that we reflect the thoughts that the great and honest people of this country hold.

The Republican party is challenged this year as it has not been challenged in almost 20 years. The party has a man of great caliber. The people want him. The country needs him. He should be nominated.

POLITICIANS view with alarm the disrespect for government which is rampant in the land. Why shouldn't it be when it is so obvious to everyone who reads even no more than the headlines that politics in 1928 sold the presidency for a mess of pottage. A great furor goes up in the land because such a small percentage of citizens vote at national elections. Indeed, why should they vote if they are given no choice outside such nonentities as Harding and Cox?

Disrespect for government and the failure to vote are not due to inherent faults in the body politic. They are the inevitable results of political knavery—nothing more and nothing else.

IS our presidency such an empty honor that it may be bought for a price? Should the White House become the stamping ground of rogues and our resources the private apple pie for hogs?

STRONG words these. But strong words are needed. For even as this is written—in Washington, in New York, Chicago, in all the great centers scheming politicians are conniving and scheming to throw the great conventions into a deadlock so that the two parties will be forced to nominate men who must promise away all the prerogatives of the presidency before they are even granted the honor of becoming candidates. A deep current runs low through national political endeavor, strong and swift. It is sinister. It is monstrous. But there it is—the current of special privilege, finding its source in a poisoned spring and sullied with the mud of dishonor. Unless it is dammed and dammed by the strong, full voice of popular opinion, then just as surely as the Harding administration besmirched the integrity of the presidency and the cabinet, so will the next candidate be tied hand and foot by the fetters of privilege.

The president must not be a serf. He must not slave to do the bidding of a few who hold him to promises exacted during the heat of a deadlocked convention.

THE pre-convention issue is between the people and the professional politicians. Which shall prevail? Shall the people sit idly by and allow convention delegates to tie the convention into a Gordian knot to be undone only by the sword of compromise, or shall they join in the swelling chorus for decency and integrity—for Hoover, or possibly Dawes—and win back the birthright which was stolen in 1920?

THE very same type of men who made Harding a martyr—poor, good-natured, ill-fated man that he was—are trying again to repeat the performance. They do not want Hoover. They are not overly fond of Dawes. But primarily they are out to beat Hoover at all costs. He is too great, too strong, too independent, too honest, too characteristic to suit those who seek special privileges. Yet, within, he is not a devil in the wool radical. He tempers liberal ideas with practical good sense. He will not take orders. The "boys" know it. So they will do anything in their power to defeat him at the convention.

The issue is drawn. Which do we want—Hoover or a jellyfish? Hoover or a slave to privilege? Hoover or "one of the boys"?

RAYMOND, DENNIS TO RUN

Mayor and Councilman Consent to Enter Race for Election

NEW TICKET IN FIELD

Mystery Personnel Behind Trio Named to Seek Council Seats

The political pot in Torrance boiled over yesterday when definite indications were forthcoming that at least seven candidates will enter the race for three seats on the City Council.

With the election less than two months away, various groups were grooming favorite candidates for what promises to be one of the most spirited campaigns in the history of Torrance municipal elections.

The terms of Mayor John Dennis and Councilman Raymond will expire this year. The People's League which sponsored the candidacies of Messrs. Dennis, Imman and Wolfe two years ago and won the election on a platform of economy and lower taxes will again enter a ticket in the race.

Mayor Dennis and Councilman Raymond have consented to run again. Who will run with them has not been decided.

Mayor Dennis and Councilman Raymond yesterday issued the following joint statement:

"Municipal problems in Torrance during the next few years will be of tremendous importance in the history of the city. With great industrial expansion ahead, it will be necessary for the municipality to keep abreast of the progress which awaits just around the corner. As members of the Council, we have already sensed the deep responsibility of the city toward all of its citizens in paving the way for this material development. A number of important problems remain unsolved. More will soon be demanding solution. Many have been solved. Many of our friends have expressed the desire that we become candidates so that we may carry out the policies of economy, low taxes and the solution of city problems to the greatest benefit of all. While there is much work and little pleasure connected with the service as city councilmen, we feel that it is the duty of every citizen to serve his community when called. We therefore consent to the use of our names as candidates for the city council at the April election. An additional statement will be made later."

The Torrance Civic Improvement Association has the machinery all set to present the names of three men for the council.

They are: Sam S. Worrell, hardware dealer; G. L. Morris, real estate man and William F. Horton, employee of the Pacific Electric shops. The personnel of the Torrance Civic Improvement Association has not been revealed.

Jolly Time Planned for Odd Fellows Ball

Tickets are on sale for the annual Odd Fellows' ball to be held in Recreation Hall, March 17. Continuous music will be furnished by Mill Gardner's Merry-makers and the Long Beach Night Hawks. A series of stunts and novel entertainments will be introduced.

Always jolly affairs, Fred Freeman, chairman of arrangements, promises that this ball will excel all previous affairs.

The whole country heaved a sigh of sincere relief Monday when the idol of the nation Col. Charles Augustus Lindbergh, a fine boy, prince of birdmen, ambassador of good will safely descended in his plane at St. Louis after overcoming storms and fog in his non-stop flight from Havana, Cuba. The landing ended an air journey through Central and part of South America, during which America's finest young man visited 15 countries on a mission of good will and in the interests of aviation. So happy was the country that our Lindbergh got home safely—although we all knew he would—that Secretary of War Davis announced that he would ask the Colonel to accept a commission in the army. Mr. Davis said an accident to Lindbergh now would be a catastrophe to aviation. Certainly the whole country would mourn. Lindbergh no longer is a free man. He belongs to us all. That is the penalty he must pay for his just fame, for his bright smile, for his clear eyes, his strong heart, for his stalwart manhood and for his peerless ability to pilot an airplane over land or sea for vast distances through sun, or rain or snow or wind or fog. Monday the United States said in chorus, "Thank God that boy is back—but isn't he a wonder?"

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. has pleased himself before the country as a man who puts the public weal ahead of private interest. He wired the senate investigating committee investigating a holdover oil scandal of the Harding administration that he would gladly testify and assist them in their solving the mystery of \$3,000,000 worth of funds upon the solution of which depends much in connection with the Sinclair Teapot Dome case. Mr. Rockefeller publicly apologized for the refusal of Robert W. Stewart, chairman of the board of the Standard Oil Company, to answer questions regarding the funds. Mr. Rockefeller himself testified, setting forth his code of business conduct in which he called a law law, which "should be observed" whether it suit personal liberty or private desire.

Ruling in a liquor case the United States Circuit Court of Appeals at San Francisco held that privately owned liquor, not held for sale, and seized without a legal search warrant must be returned to the owner and should not be destroyed. Thomas Fabri was charged with violating the federal liquor law. A lower court acquitted him but refused to return the confiscated liquor. The higher court ordered the liquor returned because it had been seized without a warrant and there was no evidence of intent to sell.

Herbert Hoover Sunday night consented to the use of his name as a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination at the Ohio primaries. In doing so he ordered that there be no excessive expenditure of money and that every cent spent in the campaign be rigidly accounted for. This was the first time the secretary of commerce has admitted himself as a candidate.

Attacking opponents of the Navy's proposed building program Secretary Wilbur in Indianapolis declared that the navy is seeking to make American sea forces "fight blindfolded." He said that in 1925 the women of the United States spent \$1,825,000,000 on cosmetics and that if the attacks on the navy are based solely upon economic grounds, it may be suggested that there are times when gunpowder is more valuable than facepowder.

The United States halted Monday in the rush of its business to make obeisance to the memory of Abraham Lincoln. It was the anniversary of the birth of the Great Emancipator.

The United States senate by a vote of 56 to 26 went on record in favor of the retirement of presidents after their second term. The resolution, debated for four days, was introduced by Senator LaFollette. He withdrew the second paragraph which called for "the observance of this precedent by the president." However, an attempt by Senator Fess, Coolidge admirer, to make the resolution apply only to second "elective" terms was defeated by a vote of 78 to 5.

(Continued on Last Page)

A real plan service. Consolidated Lumber Co.—Adv

BILL BARBER SAYS

A Scotchman with a new cigar lighter went around comparing gas prices.